

From: [Marylou Soscia](mailto:Marylou.Soscia)
To: [Soscia, Marylou](mailto:Soscia.Marylou)
Subject: Fw: Comment: Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group:
Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 11:19:10 AM

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----- Forwarded by Marylou Soscia/R10/USEPA/US on 04/25/2017 11:18 AM -----

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Cc: <Michael.Mcintyre@deq.idaho.gov>, <Barry.Burnell@deq.idaho.gov>
Date: 02/12/2008 11:32 AM
Subject: RE: Comment: Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group:

OK. Maybe I should not have weighed in. My point was about lack of baseline in much of the basin and for many toxins from which to gauge improvement. Measurement variability is certainly a bug-a-boo, but it can be overcome, real differences discerned, with large enough sample sizes. That's the power of statistics, prolonged monitoring, and larger budgets.

Also wanted to add that while I think SMART goals are smart, the way to go if you can, it's not always possible to hit all five letters. There is value in goals that that fall short of being SMART. Just think we need to be careful about setting ourselves up for a fall, so to speak, be clear that while our goals may spur some positive action, we may not be able to prove it the way we think we might, or that it will take much longer, more effort to see measurable results. That is likely not something those government accountability folks will want to hear, but I think an honest appraisal of our limited ability to show short term improvement is better than promising that which we likely can not delivery.

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Cc: Michael McIntyre; Barry Burnell
Subject: RE: Comment: Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group:

Excellent points and in line with some concerns I have had regarding the goal of a 10% reduction in toxics in the CR. Not having had the proper training my concerns have been limited to the "M" and "R" in Don's SMART goals. Regarding the "M" given the inherent variability in laboratory analysis the resolution of a 10% difference is not attainable. Duplicate laboratory analysis can vary 20%, 30%, or more and constitute a valid test. Inter laboratory QA analysis of the same sample can vary much more and meet analytical protocols. How can one claim a 10% reduction when laboratories can not resolve differences to that level? When dealing with biological systems the allowable analytical variability can increase several fold and still constitute a valid analysis. So the basic question is, "How will the 10% reduction in toxics be measured and validated given the inherent variability in the environment and present analytical methodology?"

The "R" of a 10% reduction also raises questions that should be resolved. Unless the reduction gets the toxics below some threshold is it really relevant to the biological community and health of the river? For those toxics that are below the threshold is it relevant to expend the effort to reduce them another 10%. Laudable perhaps, but relevant? For those toxics significantly above their effects threshold a 10% reduction may not be relevant. For these a much higher reduction is warranted.

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-----Original Message-----

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Cc: Michael.Mcintyre@deq.idaho.gov; Barry.Burnell@deq.idaho.gov
Subject: RE: Comment: Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group:

A big ditto there; I was in Applied Leadership training recently and
near the
end we spoke of setting SMART goals, those are goals that are

Specific

Measurable

Attainable

Relevant

Time, set for achievement

By my reckoning about the only thing we can claim for most of our goals
is
relevance, maybe specificity. The baseline, where we are now, is really
lacking and the key to setting measurable and attainable goals, and
being at
least reasonable about the time it will take to reach them. In Idaho
Gary
Bahr and I have been keenly aware of the limitation the lack of baseline
data
presents to even participating in the toxics reduction strategy. We have
been
arguing for more monitoring. Having said that we can make the monitoring
geared toward the goals we want to set down the road, i.e. make it
relevant.

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-----Original Message-----

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Subject: Comment: Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group:

Michael and others,

I was reading a business paper this weekend and ran across an article

regarding "goals," which we discussed at last week's working group meeting.

The quote from the paper was "...I learned that for goal-setting to be

worthwhile, a goal must meet certain criteria. The goal must be achievable,

it must be time limited, and it must be measurable." If we really want our

goals to be worthwhile, we are facing some difficulties. Without having the

baseline data first, the progress in achieving our goals can not be

measured (this was discussed at our meeting). Without the baseline, we also

can not apply a meaningful timeframe, and we will not know if our goals are

achievable. We need to obtain baseline data on toxics, both spatially and

temporally, in order to develop meaningful goals. If we decide to key in on

certain areas (for example, removal of contaminants from the Bonneville Dam

area, where the problem has been quantified by the COE), we can be

successful in establishing meaningful goals. If we say that PBDE loads to

the basin will be reduced by 10 percent by 2011, we will not know if we are

successful because we don't know the current loading. If we have a goal to

ban the use of a toxic compound by a certain date, however, we can be

successful. Just thinking out loud on this one.

Regards,

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